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15.8.91

RIGHT OF REPLY
OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION
ON ITEM 6

Mr. Chairman,

The distinguished members of the Sub-Commission may have noticed the positive spirit that have guided my Delegation's statement yesterday on two accounts :

Firstly, out of respect to the Sub-Commission, we refrained from saying anything irrelevant to its already heavily loaded works.

Secondly, out of good faith in honouring the UN sponsored dialogue between Indonesia and Portugal that has just resulted in an agreement on a Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation's visit to East Timor in the near future, we refrained from making points that could disrupt this positive development.

However, having listened to the statement by the Representative of Portugal which has not only once again polluted this respectable and objective expert body with undue politization, but could also spoil the painstaking efforts made under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, my delegation feels compelled to set the record straight.

We have explained time and again that Indonesia has consistently supported efforts by Portugal to decolonize East Timor. It is an undisputed facts that in the decolonisation process, the people were deprived of peaceful means to determine their own future. The peaceful process undertaken by all political parties of East Timor was aborted by the unilateral declaration of independence by one of the political parties, a minority group, the so called Fretilin, aided and abetted by some Portuguese elements launched a reign of terror. While the Portuguese colonial administration undeniably abandoned East Timor in August 1975 in the midst of a civil war, ~~therefore~~ thus

forfeited any moral, historical or legal claim as Administering Power with regard to East Timor. The other four political parties representing the majority of the people of East Timor, namely, UDT, APODETI, KOTA and TRABALHISTA, prevailed and announced the establishment of the Provisional Government of East Timor. Subsequently, the members of the People's Assembly were duly elected, representing all the districts of East Timor.

That august body then decided to proceed with the exercise of the right to self-determination on the basis of and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and 2625 (XXV) and to formally request the Government of Indonesia to accept the decision of the people of East Timor for integration with the Republic of Indonesia.

It is also indisputable that Indonesia considered the request only after a fact finding mission was despatched to the territory to determine whether this request genuinely represented the wishes of the majority. While endeavouring to respond as correctly and restrainedly as possible to circumstances that accompanied that process in East Timor, Indonesia has always acted in accordance with the responsibility incumbent on it, recognised by the United Nations and in conformity with its Charter and resolutions.

It is also a matter of record that the Indonesian Government made every effort to have the United Nations participate in the decolonisation process and never failed to report each and every stage of that process to the Secretary General, to his Special Representative, to the President of the Security Council and the Chairman of the Committee on Decolonisation.

Perhaps this process was not as perfect as we would have wanted, but, then, neither was this the case in Portugal's other former colony. In fact, the upheaval and turmoil attendant upon the attainment of freedom in former Portuguese territories attests to the irresponsibility on the part of the colonial power to fulfil its obligations under article 73 e of the UN Charter.

In light of the above record, we would like to reiterate that East Timor has ceased to be an issue of the exercised of the right to self-determination. Any attempt to pretend otherwise will precisely negate the prerogative and fundamental rights of the people of East Timor to determine its own future.

Thank you.